

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-10 /092 W

----- 082028

R 301303Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3271

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6741

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: PERES VISITS LEBANESE BORDER AREA

REF: TEL AVIV 6624

1. DEFENSE MINISTER PERES MADE A VISIT SEPTEMBER 29 TO THE LEBANESE BORDER AREA AND WAS QUOTED BY THE ISRAELI PRESS AS SAYING THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO SEE WHAT PREPARATIONS WERE NEEDED TO KEEP THE "GOOD FENCE" INFIRMARY FACILITIES OPERATING DURING THE WINTER, AND PROMISING THAT THE EXISTING INFIRMARY TENTS WOULD BE REPLACED BY SOLID STRUCTURES. PRESS REPORTED THAT A NUMBER OF ISRAELI CHRISTIAN ARABS EMPLOYED AT CONSTRUCTION WORK VOLUNTEERED THEIR SERVICES FOR BUILDING A REGULAR HOSPITAL FACILITY FOR THE SOUTHERN LEBANON VILLAGERS, AND THAT THEY WOULD ALSO DONATE MONEY AND MATERIALS FOR SUCH A PROJECT.

2. THE GOI PRESS OFFICE ISSUED A STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 29 SAYING THAT PERES "VISITED A THIRD IDF CLINIC WHICH HAS LATELY COME INTO OPERATION AT THE "GOOD FENCE" BORDER WITH LEBANON NEAR HANITA. HE CONVERSED WITH THE CLINIC'S MEDICAL STAFF AND WITH RESIDENTS OF LEBANESE VILLAGES WHO WERE WAITING THEIR TURN FOR

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TREATMENT, AND HEARD FROM THE LATTER ABOUT THE CURRENT

SITUATION IN THEIR VILLAGES ACROSS THE BORDER.

3. "CONTINUING HIS TOUR OF THE LEBANESE BORDER, MR. PERES VISITED THE CLINIC IN THE VICINITY OF DOVEV, AND THERE TOO CONVERSED WITH LEBANESE WHO HAD COME TO RECEIVE MEDICAL AID. THE OFFICERS ACCOMPANYING THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ON HIS TOUR -- O.C. NORTHERN COMMAND, MAJ. GEN. RAPHAEL EITAN, AND THE COORDINATOR OF ACTIVITIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, MAJ. GEN. AVRAHAM ORLY -- HERE BRIEFED HIM ON THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS TO BE INTRODUCED AT THAT CROSSING-POINT WITH THE COMPLETION OF A PREFABRICATED STRUCTURE FOR THE USE OF THE CLINIC'S PATIENTS."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOUNDARIES, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV06741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760369-0787
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976091/aaaaaakn.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEL AVIV 6624
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <20 DEC 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERES VISITS LEBANESE BORDER AREA
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IS, LE, (PERES, SHIMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006